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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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A Publication of The Nature Conservancy

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W. Harley Webster, Editor

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LAKE TAHOE, on the Nevada-California border. Land, in large, undeveloped acreages, on the shores of Lake Tahoe, will soon belong to history. It is there, today. It will not be there, available for public purposes, tomorrow. Already, commercial developers have trained their sights on the last large private holdings. The urgent need for an extensive natural reserve and recreational area in the Lake Tahoe region is clearly visible, especially to the governments of Nevada and California, and to any tourist who has tried to find space to pitch his tent or have a picnic lunch. Lake Tahoe is a magnificent natural lake lying in a trough between two forested crests of the Sierra Nevada. On the west is the main arm of the Sierra with many peaks rising above 10,000 feet. On the east is the Carson range, a granite wall rearing 5,000 to 6,000 feet above the desert valley floors. The topography is abrupt and in many places gains 2,000 feet in height in one horizontal mile.

The Editor solicits the gift of articles, notes, photographs, and sketches on the various aspects of The Nature Conservancy. If possible, articles should be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of the paper. Photographs or negatives should have necessary data attached. All photographs, negatives and articles will be returned if desired.

A CHALLENGE TO CONSERVATIONISTS

Pulling the Attwater Prairie Chicken back from the Brink of Extinction

It is a popular American pastime to bemoan the passing of the passenger pigeon, the great auk, and the other native species that have gone with them into the oblivion of extinction. A recent Wildlife Conservation Week was dedicated to threatened species and resulted in many articles in the popular press.

Now there is an opportunity to see how genuine this concern is. The Texas relative of the extinct Heath Hen—the Attwater Prairie Chicken—that once occurred by the millions on the coastal prairie of Texas is down to little more than a thousand birds.

Fortunately the cause of the birds' decline is clear—conversion of its prairie habitat into ricefields. Fortunately the remedy is equally clear—the purchase of enough of its remaining habitat to support a stock of sufficient size to assure the birds' survival.

Some 3,428 acres of prairie, most of it virgin, occupied by several hundred Attwater Prairie Chickens, is now under option to conservation interests. The National Wildlife Federation, The National Audubon Society, the World Wildlife Fund and The Nature Conservancy have all been asked to set up special appeals and contributions may be sent to any of them.

The total cost of the land will be $364,000 which is less than many an art museum has paid for a single painting in recent years.

IS THAT WHICH THE LORD PRODUCED LESS WORTHY OF PRESERVATION THAN A PAINTING FROM THE HAND OF MAN?

Richard H. Pough

Male Attwater prairie chicken struts through his mating dance, orange gular sacs inflated. Frenzied wing-beating produces nuptial booming sounds. Attwater is a subspecies of the greater prairie chicken. (Photo by Texas Fish and Game Department)

A NEW ETHIC

Commencement Address at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Virginia
June 3, 1963
by
Ruskin S. Freer

President Wake, members of the Board of Trustees, fellow Faculty members, members of the Class of 1963 and friends of Lynchburg College, I appreciate very much the honor of being asked to speak to this Commencement audience and am grateful for the opportunity of presenting a problem of our day and culture with which many thoughtful people are greatly concerned, and with which many others are certain to be concerned. Broadly, this problem is man's adjustment to nature. Specifically, it involves the many aspects of the conservation of our natural resources.

This audience need not be reminded of the incredible pace of modern life, or of the incredible increase in knowledge and technology. Some of you were in a group recently where several statements regarding the present-day growth of science were made, such as, "We have developed more new mathematics since 1930 than the total previous body of mathematics." The Age of Steel and Steam became the Age of Electricity, and then passed on through the Air Age, through the Age of Electronics, the Atomic Age to the Space Age at a tempo which is dizzying, even to the scientists who are working in these fields.

One aspect of this acceleration in our cultural development involves what man is doing to the face of Old Mother Earth, so let us consider, first, a number of the undesirable results of man's so-called conquest of nature. A recent advertisement of one of our large steel corporations boasts of the "hordes of huge, rugged machines (which) are rearranging the face of the earth to meet the changing needs of man." This ad pictures a power shovel 20 stories high which is able to reach more than a city block to pick up a bite of 173 tons of material.

In this rearranging of the face of the earth hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile agricultural land are being transformed into our interstate highway system or other superhighways. Not only productive farm land, but forests are being destroyed to clear space for mushrooming shopping centers and housing developments. Recent news stories revealed the results of excavation of a huge crater by atomic blast in the Nevada desert, forecasting the possibility of creating new harbors by push-button techniques. I am not opposed to such programs, but would like to express the conviction that a small segment of mankind, with easy access to the public treasury, is having itself a ball playing with the new atomic and electronic gadgets. Their activities have constituted one of the major factors in changing the environment of earth-bound mortals.

The air we breathe is polluted with offensive odors from industrial plants. We are lowering the level of underground water until salt water penetration from the ocean poses a threat to agriculture in a number of places. Many cities must draw their drinking water supplies from rivers burdened with sewage from other cities.

A considerable interruption to the activities of the professional managers or transformers of nature recently occurred with the publication of Rachel Carson's book, "Silent Spring". This past spring was anything but silent with loud cries of anguish from government bureaus involved in pesticide uses and from affected chemical industries. Repercussions have not yet died down, but the final result is certain to be good. The controversy between those who wish to preserve the balance of nature intact, and those who scorn such an idea in their efforts to conquer nature, is not yet resolved.

Conservationists and other scientists have not yet had time to digest the Weisner Report, just issued, from the Life Sciences Panel of President Kennedy's Science Advisory Committee, but legislation is pending which will set up a coordinating agency for environmental hazards, to be headed by Senator Abraham Ribicoff. On April 25 the Federal government's first laboratory exclusively for wildlife pesticide research, costing

$700,000, was opened at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at Laurel, Maryland.

As a result of Miss Carson's book the general public has become aware of the effects of mass spraying of poisonous chemicals on wildlife and on human beings.

We have been hearing much talk of the Frankenstein monster called Megalopolis, stretching from Portland, Maine, to the south of Washington. The terms "population explosion", "urban sprawl" and "strip cities" have been added to the popular jargon to describe this urbanization of the east coast, and several other sections of the country. New subdivisions spring up almost overnight, with little or no provision, except in certain rare cases for schools, churches, parks or other recreation areas, with poor planning for main traffic arteries, and without an adequate tax base in the form of industries and businesses to support public education. Not only has some of our best agricultural land been sacrificed, but many unspoiled wilderness areas of scenic, scientific or historic value have been destroyed forever.

There are other examples of man's greed, or hasty action or lack of long-range planning for the use of the land. The expression, "turning a fast buck", is well understood by all of us and practiced by many without scruple. After World War I we plowed the western grasslands, spurred on by the high price of wheat, and experienced the Dust Bowl. In many parts of the coal-producing states we witness the ghastly results of strip-mining where thousands of acres appear to have been plowed by Paul Bunyan and his ox. Under guise of flood control programs we have inundated some of our best farm land in order to share in the huge Federal "kitty" under political patronage. We set aside national parks for permanent preservation of wilderness country, then desecrate their lakes with racing motor boats. Our National Parks Service itself, is being criticized for locating luxury-type motels within park boundaries with modern hard-surfaced speedways leading into them.

Man outrages nature intentionally and callously and he also does it accidentally. A situation which had comic aspects, were it not also tragic and repulsive, occurred when an oil pipeline burst on a main tributary of the Mississippi River this winter. Shortly thereafter a tank of soybean oil burst farther upstream, adding 3 million gallons to the previous leakage. In cold weather the soybean oil took on a consistency of Jello. Flood water carried the stuff for 200 miles down the river draping branches of trees in flooded areas with the congealed, rubbery mess. The oil flow knocked two box cars into the river and flooded streets and basements. Much damage resulted to boats and bathing beaches and incalculable harm was done to fish and other life of these rivers. Thousands of wild ducks were killed.

Is this an appropriate incident to be discussing in a commencement address? It certainly is not a pleasant one, but it represents one of the numerous problems man faces in either adjusting to his environment or in attempting to bring the environment into harmony with his rapidly expanding culture, and this should certainly be a major concern of an enlightened citizenship.

Perhaps an epitome of man attempting to control his environment is the householder who has been struggling to make a beautiful lawn using preparation "A" to kill broad-leaved weeds, preparation "B" to kill Japanese beetles, preparation "C" to control crabgrass, to say nothing of fertilizer, lime and soil conditioner. Finally in defeat he surrenders and resorts to a solution of the problem which has been a favorite of cartoonists and critical observers of the current scene. He covers his laws with concrete and paints it green.

What can man do to make a better adjustment to his natural environment? It is difficult to convince laymen of the urgency of remedial measures. New construction is everywhere engulfing the land. The new profession of long-range planning for land use is inexperienced and unable to keep up with economic growth. We may appreciate the desirability of action but not the necessity for immediate and vigorous action. It is

hard to convince the man whose house is on fire that he should call the Orkin man. Our preoccupation with the Cold War, desegregation or deficit financing by the Federal government makes it easy to postpone action on conservation problems.

Much is being done. There are literally dozens of conservation organizations in this country—probably too many for united, effective action. They include many thousands of individuals who volunteer their time, labor and money on behalf of preservation of our national heritage—the seashores and rivers, forests, wetlands, prairies and sand dunes, our "purple mountain majesties", and the wildlife these support.

These organizations influence legislation. Some support summer camps or workshops for youngsters and adults. Conservation is being taught throughout our educational system, even at graduate school level. A former member of our biology faculty obtained his doctor's degree in conservation education. These organizations need the intelligent and sympathetic support of more people.

We cannot stay the onward march of progress nor would we wish to. We do, however, raise the question as to whether progress is to be measured in material gains only. Is the highest good of our civilization to cover more of God's green earth with subdivisions and concrete highways? Does the conquest of nature mean the obliteration of nature? Are progress and the conquest of nature to result in the separation of man from nature? In answer to that question I quote from an address by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall at the Eighth Biennial Wilderness Conference in San Francisco last March:

> "We are learning increasingly nowadays from psychology and biology that man is a part of nature. His roots are in the natural world, and he separates himself from it at his peril. The unnatural environment of our cities and the pace of modern life have accelerated the "civilized" diseases so familiar to us all. Physicians increasingly urge patients caught up in the urban "rat race" to get more relaxation. (A recent report from a Kefauver congressional committee states that we are spending $280 million annually in this country for tranquilizers.) For many people the best kind of refreshment and renewal comes among trees and fields, along uncrowded seashores, or high on mountain streams. We have in many respects become a nation of vacation-seekers in search of temporary surcease from the abnormal strains of a fast-moving society. Above all, modern man, perplexed and beleaguered in mind and body, needs the wholesomeness and serenity that come from leisurely association with natural surrounding, particularly with nature in its pure, unadulterated state—true wilderness."

Ours is still a crude, material culture. We may be past the horse and buggy days, but in our mad rush are still leaping figuratively from tricycle to motorbike to sports car. One of the functions of the liberal arts college is to lead or nudge individuals on to a higher cultural level. It is important that we examine and develop aspirations appropriate to a mature culture, individually and collectively. We need a deeper appreciation of man's place in nature; and in the achievement of this we must insure the preservation of more natural areas, for the development of man's esthetic sensibilities to a point where he will appreciate his natural environment and secure its survival.

Writing a few brief years ago, Dr. Joseph J. Shoman, at that time editor of Virginia Wildlife and chief of the Education Division of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, proposed an apt term to express an attribute essential to man in our maturing culture—a geobiotic ethic—i.e., an ethic which involves man's relations to the earth and its life.

Quoting Dr. Shoman, man's adjustment to his natural environment "demands an appreciation for intangibles and a feeling of respect and reverence toward the earth and all that dwells upon it." The late Dr. Aldo Leopold, one of the pioneers in the conservation

movement in this country, urged the development of a land ethic and an ecological conscience. And I believe that the prophet Isaiah, perhaps foreseeing the menace of spreading shopping centers, subdivisions and superhighways, allied himself with those who would spare more of our natural environment, when he wrote:

> "Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no room, and ye be made to dwell alone in the midst of the land."

Believed to be the oldest and largest species of Tulip Tree (Liriodendron Tulipifera) in the Bedford area, Va. It is just over 31 feet in circumference and 9.9 feet in diameter. Sent in by Dr. Ruskin S. Freer.

KICKAPOO STATE PARK

A bill to allow strip mining in part of Kickapoo State Park has been vetoed by Governor Kerner as a result of public opposition to it.

Kickapoo State Park, which serves most of east-central Illinois, is located in northwestern Vermilion County, about 10 miles from Danville. The park, which was purchased in part through popular subscription, consists of 1,548 acres.

House Bill 1619, introduced at the request of the State Department of Conservation, would have authorized the Department to convey to the Ayrshire Collieries Corporation title and interest of the State to coal lying in or under certain land in Vermilion County and to receive other land in payment. The specific terms would be arrived at by negotiation subject to approval of the Governor.

The Ayrshire Collieries, a coal mining concern, wanted to gain the mining rights to 103 acres of park land for strip-mining purposes. It was the desire of Ayrshire Collieries to swap 430 acres of its already strip-mined land for the Kickapoo acreage. The area of the Park under consideration was one of the most scenic and greatly used sections. The stripped land, on the other hand, has little value.

The measure was passed by the General Assembly with little public notice late in the session.

Once the bill had come to the public attention, there was much opposition to it. This opposition resulted in the Department of Conservation stating that it would not necessarily accept the Ayrshire Collieries proposal, but intended to negotiate for a more worthwhile settlement. The Department was hoping to increase the size of the park through the exchange. Provision was also to be made for the area which the Ayrshire Collieries wanted; it was to be leveled and returned to the park once strip-mining procedures had ceased.

In his veto message, Governor Kerner described the provisions of the bill and explained how the public interest would be protected. He then stated that "despite these safeguards, vast number of people in the area which Kickapoo State Park primarily serves have written to me vehemently protesting the proposed exchange. Some of these people recognized the qualifications written into the Bill; others do not. But virtually without exception they object to even the barest possibility that the state might give up an existing part of the state park for other acreage, however extensive...."

> "It is ironical that today the conservation movement finds itself turning back to ancient Indian land ideas, to the Indian understanding that we are not outside of nature, but of it. From this wisdom we can learn how to conserve the best parts of our continent."
>
> —Secretary of Interior Udall

Edited remarks of Dr. Robert Rienow in response to speech of Mr. Stong at Annual Meeting of The Nature Conservancy, New London, Connecticut, August 24, 1963.

My good friends:

I rise to a point of high personal privilege for I am the humble co-author (with Leona Train Rienow) of The Skinned Land which was challenged from this podium this morning. I now ask your indulgence as we compare philosophies.

First, let me express appreciation of Mr. Stong's motivation and his efforts on behalf of wilderness. He is an invaluable friend to our cause. I must take issue with him, however, on three scores in the brief time allotted:

1. The optimistic assessment of our resource situation described this morning hinges on mere speculation of the Department of Agriculture on a wondrous future productivity. It is founded on the crudest extrapolation that takes the most phenomenal period in the history of agriculture and projects the revolution forward at the same or a greater rate. It takes little note of any laws of diminishing returns in applications of technology and certainly refuses to recognize that its most treasured programs may backfire as the aerial spray for weed control appears to be doing at the moment.

As a political scientist I submit that this invitation to complacency—this desperate faith in science—that the Department of Agriculture sponsors is a typical bureaucratic move to forestall civic concern in public affairs. We, the Rienows, have pursued this point more fully in the September 28, 1963, issue of Saturday Review. This branch of the bureaucracy is not a disinterested observer in this scientific brand of progress; it has a vested interest in its commitment to and its leadership of agricultural technology. It is noteworthy that another branch of the bureaucracy, the Bureau of Reclamation, with a different set of interests comes to contrary conclusions concerning the need for farm land. Its anniversary publications in between the pictures of its type of technology point up the dire need for adding crop acreage.

I submit that before we bow too deeply to the dangerous dogma of "scientific redemption" we note that many of our most pressing new problems are born of science and technology - created by it:

The contamination of air with pollutants we have not thoroughly identified.

Pollution of water by leaching of fertilizers and by radioactive wastes.

Erosion due to mechanized lumbering.

Impacting of forest floor by heavy machinery.

Salting of underground water by excessive withdrawal and by the oil industry.

Backfire of pesticides—over 800 different poisons in our environment.

Fallout of a grisly assortment of radioactive isotopes.

A brief look around you and you could add to this list.

2. As a political scientist, again, I cannot dismiss the whole problem of population pressure because Americans have a temporary crop surplus here when, at the same time, one-half of the world's three billion people are hungry. The revolution of rising expectations that so stirs the international scene cannot be answered with scientific day dreams of 100 bushels to the acre in the U.S. The pressure is already real and imminent and is impatient of the bubbling of the test tubes.

Even Resources for the Future with all its subsidized faith in science looks heavily to imports to satisfy projected needs in this one small, and privileged corner of the globe, and then falls short in many categories.

I am skeptical that the food problem can be solved satisfactorily, or ought even to be approached on anything less than a universal basis.

3. I am perturbed by the speaker's use of the word "land" in a general sense; it rings irrelevantly. It suggests a legitimate comparison between wilderness and

oatfields, valleys and mountain tops. This is a distortion. Centuries of despoilation have already altered the character of our lands and their potential contribution to man's welfare. Nor can it be denied that men and civilization tend to befoul whatever land they press near thus altering it as a biotic community. The term "land" used loosely makes a conservationist shudder since it includes both the pristine remnant of a prairie and the wasted space in the middle of a cemented clover leaf!

I am registering profound reservations against the philosophy of complacency. Scientific advancement, instead of automatically solving our past difficulties, rather imposes upon us the social need for making a choice of priorities. At the risk of being opposed to "progress" I confess an unwillingness to defer to the social decisions of the best device science can come up with, even the year 2000 model of a Univac.

WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

The West Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy came into existence in Morgantown recently. Headed by Chairman Walter C. Gumbel of Fairmont, the officers are Vice-Chairman Earl L. Core, Secretary W. A. Van Eck and Treasurer R. L. Guthrie.

Mr. Paul Bruce Dowling presented the chapter with its Charter and Dr. E. L. Core reviewed Nature Conservancy activities in West Virginia.

Dr. Graham Netting of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa., who is a member of the Board of Governors of The Nature Conservancy, gave a public lecture.

The new chapter has undertaken the preservation of a sandstone basin with vegetation and wildlife akin to that of Canada. A climb of 1000 feet to Cranesville Swamp, the proposed project site, permits a view of this mountain bog.

Future West Virginia topography that will possibly become living museums will be representative of the state's mountain bogs and meadows, shale barrens and river sand dunes, virgin spruce and hardwood forest stands, mountain cliffs and limestone caves, floodplain forests and river islands.

MEMBERSHIP INCREASING

The Washington Office appreciates the fine response received on the early membership renewal appeal. As of January 2, 2,954 paid-up memberships had been received as compared with 1,241 for the corresponding period last year. That figure, in turn, was an improvement over preceding years.

Reminders will go out shortly to those who have not sent in their dues.

All can help in the important work of The Nature Conservancy by enlisting the support of others. Invitations to membership will be sent to all whose names and addresses are given to us. Time and postage will be saved if the name, address, and check to The Nature Conservancy in the proper amount are mailed directly to 2039 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Membership categories are:

Junior Member	$2.00
Member	$5.00
Sustaining Member	$10.00
Contributing Member	$25.00
LIFE MEMBER	$200.00

In chapter areas one half the dues, except Life Members, is returned to the chapter for its work. The dues from Life Members are placed in an endowment fund and the earnings used in the manner of regular membership funds.

JACK ISLAND, FLORIDA

Jack Island, 550 acres of mangrove salt marsh with an additional 50 acres of pockets of unique flora almost entirely of West Indian derivation in marked contrast to that of adjacent land is now a state park, largely because of the efforts of the Indian River Committee of The Nature Conservancy.

The island, although formerly held in state ownership, could have been sold for commercial purposes. Like all salt marshes, it nourishes the estuary from which the great producers of marine food come (and who knows what in the future).

The new preserve is in the Indian River inlet area of St. Lucie County, Florida, two miles northeast of Fort Pierce, only a quarter of a mile from the Atlantic Ocean.

It abounds in wildlife featuring 119 species of birds and invertebrates about which little is known. Fish belonging to 12 orders, 30 families, 53 genera and 63 species were collected in the area. Vegetation includes only five species having northern affinities. Exotica such as coral bean, necklace-pod, wild coffee and Spanish-stopper are among the varieties. But for the most part, the island has black mangrove for forest cover and pickleweed for groundcover.

HART MEMORIAL WOODS, ILLINOIS

An Illinois woodland will be preserved in memory of Nettie Hart. The 36 acre tract is of archeological interest with its four Indian mounds.

Friends of Miss Hart, a designer and vice president of Raymond Loewy Associates of Chicago, who died in an auto accident last year, started the memory fund. Miss Hart's artistry was permeated by her love for nature, especially birds; hence the establishment of the woods as a bird sanctuary in the area of her origin.

Located in Champaign County, Illinois, northeast of Mahomet, the woodland, bordering on the Sangamon River contains a floodplain woods, one of the few in the area because of the many dams along the river. Rare plants and animals exist in the area unsubjected to lumbering in the past 50 years.

The area is valuable to students in ecology and anthropology. First settled by the Woodland Indians, its woods provide relief from the soybean and corn fields of the surrounding former prairie land.

OGEECHEE RIVER NATURAL AREA, GEORGIA

In one of its first completed projects in the Southeast, The Nature Conservancy served as technical advisor in preservation of a coastal plain tract of 170.5 acres located along the Ogeechee River in Chatham County near Savannah, Ga. Union Bag-Camp Paper Corporation deeded the land to the Youth Museum of Savannah which will retain its primitive condition for the purpose of nature study tours.

Miss Clermont Lee, a landscape architect in Savannah and a director of the Youth Museum spearheaded the preservation project.

The 22 acres of sandhill and 148 acres of swamp contain a number of the showy native southern shrubs. The turkey oak-sandhill vegetation and river-bottom swamp encompass hydrophytic and zerophytic extremes and will provide opportunity to study the physiology of water in relation to natural plant communities. Transition zone vegetation is also observable.

The recognition of the scientific and educational values of natural area preservation by one of the leading forest products industries is most encouraging.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As this message is being written, the Nation is returning to normal after a period of shock and mourning. It has also been a time of self analysis in affairs of state and of wonder as to what changes in Government policy on matters of conservation may lie immediately ahead. Most of those who are in touch with both the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture earnestly hope that the leadership of these will be continued under President Johnson.

The pause in our rush of business, the hundreds of thousands who spent long hours in lines waiting to pay final tribute to the President, the generous response in a hundred ways have all shown the human concern of the people. We do rise to a crisis and react generously when jolted out of a normal complacency. Our difficulty is in our failure to react to the less dramatic but very important crucial issues of everyday living. The late President said that the first nation to solve its problems of pollution would be ahead of the first nation in space. If those who gave hours to paying tribute to his memory would go before their local officials and ask what is being done to clean up pollution in their own communities, progress might take place. The current lip service to the principle and apathy of action that now exists would change materially.

Many public spirited citizens fail to act in such matters in the mistaken belief that letters and protests are to no avail. "But what can I do?" is the sincere if fatal reaction. The fact is, every letter and every call is important. As has been previously pointed out in this column in an earlier issue, there are numerous instances where one determined person has been able to arouse others and prevent legislation from passing that was not in the public interest. Perhaps even more important than opposing destructive measures is the taking time to support those public leaders who stand up for conservation against the pressures of the exploiters. Oftimes they have the feeling of standing alone. It is the personal observation of the writer that government officials on all levels do better than we tend to give them credit for doing. They must face a highly organized and determined effort by selfish interests that are apt to be very well financed. It is sad but natural that the voices of those whose only motive is public interest are less frequently heard.

In his book, THE QUIET CRISIS, Stewart L. Udall has reviewed the course of man's attitude toward the land from the time of the Indians to the present day. It is highly recommended reading. In his final chapter, the current struggle is stated thus:

> "Intoxicated with the power to manipulate nature, some misguided men have produced a rationale to replace the Myth of Superabundance. It might be called the Myth of Scientific Supremacy, for it rests on the rationalization that the scientists can fix everything tomorrow.
>
> The modern land raiders, like the public-land raiders of another era, are ready to justify short-term gains by seeking to minimize the long-term losses. 'Present the repair bill to the next generation' has always been their unspoken slogan."

Two current examples of the remaking of nature for momentary gain without regard to the future are Rampart Dam in Alaska and the proposals for water resource "management" in the Southwest. Both of these should be watched and studied with concern.

At the same time, there is a job to be done by the chapters, state representatives and project committees of The Nature Conservancy in protecting the smaller local areas that will be so important in the years ahead.

If it is true that "actions speak louder than words" our course of actually doing something about natural area preservation is right.

> "It is necessary to act now to assure that essential open-space values are preserved while there is still time to make the necessary choices." Arthur A. Davis, Housing & Home Finance Agency, page 336 of the 1963 Yearbook of Agriculture, A Place to Live.

A FEW CLUES TO THE INCALCULABLE TREASURES STILL IN NATURE'S STOREHOUSE

"What good is it?" is apt to be the first response a biologist gets from a layman when he starts to talk about the importance of preventing the extinction of some wild plant or animal. Many would wish to challenge at once the implied assumption that no living thing has a right to continue to inhabit the earth unless it is of some use to man. However, the question can be answered more directly by simply citing cases where obscure and little known organisms have suddenly been found to be of use and value to man.

The following collection is the result of a casual clipping of such items from Science News Letter, the daily papers and other miscellaneous sources over the past few years. It is to be hoped that it will convince doubters that as man's at present very fragmentary knowledge of the world of living things matures, most forms of life will prove to have their uses.

It is to be hoped that before long mankind will recognize that besides having a moral obligation to coming generations not to impoverish the world's stock of living things, he also has an obligation not to deprive them of the chance to find uses for things that only seem to be useless because we are at such an early primitive stage in our study of life processes.

Let's not forget that each organism alive today is the end product of a two and a half million year chain of evolutionary development and that man is powerless to recreate even the simplest living thing. Every act of extinction represents an impoverishment of a rich treasure of living things that was our heritage and should be that of our children, grandchildren and their children.

Richard H. Pough

More Chemicals in Plants than Chemists Could Make in 1000 Years

Dr. Alfred Taylor of the University of Texas said, "In plants we have compounds that the chemists couldn't synthesize in 1000 years. As a rule the naturally occurring compounds are less likely to be poisonous than the synthetic because they have developed in association with life." Cancer researcher Taylor's team reports more hopeful results with the natural compounds than the synthetic.

Germs May Take Part in Vital Mineral Processing

Bacteria are expected to play important roles in future recovery of valuable metals from low-grade ores and in producing synthetic fuels from oil shale. U.S. Bureau of Mines scientists reported the presence of bacteria in small samples of ore enabled them to extract many times the amount of metal that could have been recovered without these bacteria. They hope to substitute microbes for heat now used to produce petroleum products from oil shale.

Green Scum on Ponds Could Improve Bread

Chlorella best known as the green scum on ponds seen providing abundant cheap source of two protein building amino acids, lysine and theonine. The addition of these two amino acids has been shown to enrich bread and improve its nourishing qualities by adding to its protein value. Chlorella was found to be a better source of theonine than soya and equal to eggs and liver.

Algae Seen As Source of Fuel Gas

The capture of sun's energy and the production of fuel, methane gas, has been achieved by means of a special method of harvesting hard algae. The process which is still in its early stages is being investigated by University of California scientists in Berkeley.

Mosses Inhibit Growth of Bacteria and Fungi

Antibiotics from common mosses may result from some studies reported by a team of Arizona State University researchers. Since there are few cases of fungi attacking mosses they were studied to see if they contained some special substances. Three local mosses were found to inhibit the growth of varieties of both bacteria and fungi.

OLAUS J. MURIE

Leading Exponent of Wilderness

OLAUS J. MURIE, the nation's leading exponent of wilderness, passed away quietly October 21, 1963, after a long illness. He was in St. John's Hospital at Jackson, Wyoming.

A former director and staff head of The Wilderness Society, of which he was also president from 1950 to 1957, Dr. Murie at the time of his death was chairman of the Society's Council, its governing body. He was in his 75th year.

Those who might wish to do so are invited, if so inclined, to send contributions to The Wilderness Society for the recently established Olaus Murie Endowment for Wilderness and People.

Dr. Murie had achieved a great leadership for wilderness preservation and appreciation, and such recognition as the Wildlife Society's prized Leopold Medal, the National Audubon Society's special Audubon Medal Award, the Honor Roll Award of the Izaak Walton League, and the John Muir Award of the Sierra Club.

His writings included Alaska-Yukon Caribou, The Elk of North America, A Field Guide to Animal Tracks and many contributions to scientific journals and to magazines. Back of all his achievement was his wide and intimate personal experience with wilderness. For more than a quarter of a century he conducted field investigations for the U.S. Biological Survey and its successor, the Fish and Wildlife Service.

He was born on March 1, 1889, in Moorhead, Minn., and took an A.B. degree in 1912 at Pacific University, where he later was granted the degree Doctor of Science, in 1949. In 1927 he received a Master of Science degree at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Murie is survived by Mrs. Murie at the Murie Ranch in Moose, Wyoming, by his brother, Dr. Adolph Murie of the National Park Service, and by three children and seven grandchildren.

CARL O. GUSTAFSON

Mr. Carl O. Gustafson, 42, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society, was killed October 18 when his single-engine plane crashed shortly after takeoff from the Teterboro, N.J., airport. His wife, Eleanor, and their 11-year-old daughter, Barbara Dell, died in the same accident. An 18-year-old son, Carl, Jr., a student at McDonough Academy in Baltimore, survives.

Mr. Gustafson served as personal aide to Laurence S. Rockefeller on conservation affairs. He was a member of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, vice president and trustee of the Jackson Hole Preserve. A dedicated and exceedingly able young leader of national esteem, his death is a tragic loss to the conservation movement.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR STATE MEETING OF THE FLORIDA NATURE CONSERVANCY

April 4-5, 1964

Saturday, April 4, 1964:

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. . . . . Registration
10:00 - 10:10 a.m. . . . . Welcome by G. T. Smith, Chairman of the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials.
10:10 - 11:30 a.m. . . . . Business Meeting, Pres. Melvin Finn, Chairman.
11:30 - 12:00 noon . . . . . Speaker
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. . . . . Luncheon
2:00 p.m. Boat Ride on the Estero River to Mound Key
6:30 p.m. . . . . Dinner Speaker—Richard Pough

Sunday, April 5, 1964:

8:30 a.m. . . . . Breakfast
9:30 a.m. . . . . Guided Tour—Koreshan Unity
10:30 a.m. . . . . History of the West Coast of Florida, by Miss Hedwig Michel
12:00 noon . . . . . Luncheon

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

formed by the American Hotel & Motel Association

The interest of the American Hotel & Motel Association in conservation of our nation's resources drew praise from Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, whose letter to AH&MA President John Dismukes Green commended the formation of the Association's Conservation Committee.

According to Green, the interest of the Hotel/Motel industry in conservation is unique.

> "Industries interested in lumbering, mining, fishing and such are usually in the forefront of conservation movements," Green said, "but for our industry to formally take an active interest in this vital field is unusual in the annals of American Industry."

According to Green, who appointed the Committee, conservation is a very important part of the present administration's plans and does not only refer to rural areas and their resources, but also to such things as urban water pollution and the smoke and smog conditions so prevalent in many of the cities of the United States today.

The New AH&MA Committee will hold its first meeting next month in New Orleans when the Lodging-Industry Trade Association stages its 52nd Annual Convention. At that time it will formulate plans for encouraging hotels and motels all across the country to participate in conservation programs.

Stuart G. Gross, Superintendent of the Hotel Division, Yosemite Park and Curry Company, Yosemite National Park, California, was appointed by Green to head the new Committee.

BOOK REVIEWS

A PLACE TO LIVE, 1963 Yearbook of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture has announced publication of the 1963 Yearbook of Agriculture, a far-ranging examination of the effects of urbanization and industrialization on many aspects of American life.

Entitled A PLACE TO LIVE, the 608-page book cites a need for discussion, plans, and action by all Americans regarding the use of resources, public services in communities, rural redevelopment, educational and economic opportunities for farmers and others whom technological changes have put at a disadvantage, the growing demand for outdoor recreation, urban and suburban sprawl into farmlands, parks and open spaces, the functions of governing bodies, the management of water and air pollution, and much more.

The 79 chapters were written in non-technical, informative style by 92 men and women, among them officials of State and Federal government, college professors, garden club leaders, planning officials, sociologists, and economists.

Copies of A PLACE TO LIVE can be bought at $3.00 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. No person or unit in the U.S. Department of Agriculture has copies for general distribution.

QUIET CRISIS - by Stewart L. Udall with an introduction by John F. Kennedy. Published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston, New York City.

"The history of America is, more than that of most nations, a history of man confronted by nature."

These are the words of President John F. Kennedy in his introduction to the QUIET CRISIS, a new and important book by Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior.

Udall himself states that "America today stands poised on a pinnacle of wealth and power, we live in a land of vanishing beauty, of increasing greatness, of shrinking open spaces, and of an overall environment that is diminished daily by violence, and noise and blight. This, in brief, is the quiet conservation crisis of the 1960s."

This book is an attempt to outline the land-and-people concept of our Continent, and is must reading for members of The Nature Conservancy, not only because the Conservancy is prominently mentioned as one of the leading conservation organizations in the country, but also because it is a forthright, straightforward, no holds barred narrative of the trials and tribulations of the conservation movement.

A LIST SHOWING THE ACTIVE CHAPTERS IN THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND GIVING THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THEIR CHAIRMEN

Arizona:
Dr. Walter S. Phillips, Department of Botany, University of Arizona, Tucson.

Arkansas:
Mr. S. C. Dellinger, Fayetteville.

California:
Southern Chapter
Mr. Gerhard Bakker, 450 W. Avenue 43, Los Angeles 65.
Monterey Bay Chapter
Mr. Vernal Yadon, 165 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove.
Northern California Chapter
Mr. Walt Lauritz Muhlbach, 2013 Vine Street, Berkeley 9.

Connecticut:
Mrs. John M. Hamilton, 9 Binney Lane, Old Greenwich.
Connecticut-Glastonbury Chapter
Mr. Henry S. Beers, 10 Newell Lane, Glastonbury.

Florida:
Mr. Melvin Finn, 310 Biscayne Bldg. Miami.

Illinois:
Mrs. S. Glidden Baldwin, Catlin.

Indiana:
Mr. Fred Meyer, 3755 E. 71st St., Indianapolis.

Iowa:
Dr. S. Galen Smith, Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, Iowa State University, Ames.

Maine:
Mr. Charles Heywood, Broad Street, Bethel.

Michigan Natural Areas Council:
Mr. Peter Stettenheim, U.S.D.A. Avian Anatomy Project Dept. Poultry Science, Michigan State University, East Lansing.

Minnesota:
Mr. Glenn W. Ross, Highway #41, Excelsior.

Missouri:
Mr. C. E. Boulson, Box 3, Marshfield.

New Hampshire:
Mr. George K. Ripley, Troy.

New York:
Eastern New York
Mr. Edward B. Clements, 1 Victoria Ave., Troy.
Long Island Chapter
Mr. John T. Ricks, East Gate Road, R.D. 3, Huntington, New York.
Western New York
Mr. Wendell L. Danielson, 282 Taylor Rd., Hamburg.

Ohio:
Dr. Willard Carmean, Rt. 4, Coolville Ridge, Athens.

Oregon:
Dr. John Hammond, 14825 S. E. Oatfield Rd., Portland 22.

Texas:
Mrs. Raymond H. Goodrich, R.F.D. 1, Box 61, Navasota. (Vice-Chairman)

Vermont:
Dr. James Marvin, 303 Swift St. So., Burlington.

Virginia:
Mr. George C. Freeman, Jr., c/o Hunton, Williams, Gay, Powell & Gibson, Electric Bldg., Richmond 12.

Washington:
Mr. Thornton Thomas, Box 206, Bellevue.

West Virginia:
Mr. W. C. Gumbel, Monongahela Power Co., Fairmont.

Wisconsin:
Mr. Paul J. Olson, 4122 Mineral Pt. Rd., Madison 5.

N.B.: The names and addresses given above were those available at the Washington Office as of December 12, 1963. If there are changes in the above, perhaps Chapter officers would advise the Washington Office accordingly.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

2039 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

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Dr. Richard T. Goodwin
Connecticut College
New London, Conn.

"TH[illegible]RT"

"We tend to forget how gene[illegible]nd has been to us, and what bountiful wealth it still has to offer, if treat[illegible] decently in return. We forget that the public lands are a National treasure, one which belongs to future generations as much as it does to us.....

"If enough of our people care enough about the natural resource values of our Nation to join in a fight to protect those values with a balanced conservation program, then this generation can proudly put its signature on the land for future generations to see and enjoy."

Secretary of the Interior
STEWART L. UDALL
before the 5th American Forestry Association Congress,
Washington, D.C., October 28, 1963

Arundel Pond — Wildcat Mountain, Virginia